

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-02 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 SP-02 /045 W
-----019575 260433Z /70

O 260410Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 827

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1328

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP
SUBJECT: BASE DISCUSSIONS: VOA, REGIONAL RELAY, AMERICAN CEMETERY

REF: (A) MANILA 1056; (B) STATE 17322

1. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT IT HAS BEEN AGREED USG POLICY SINCE 1976 TO WORK OUT SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR VOA, REGIONAL RELAY AND AMERICAN CEMETERY THROUGH EXCHANGE OF NOTES AT MOST APPROPRIATE OCCASION IN COURSE OF BASE DISCUSSIONS. WE SEE CLEAR ADVANTAGE IN HAVING OUR FORMAL NOTES ON THESE SUBJECTS ON THE TABLE AS WE MOVE TO DISCUSS WITH THE GOP THE NOTES AND IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS AMENDING THE MBA. WE SEE FOLLOWING FACTORS AS SIGNIFICANT:

A) MARCOS HAS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY NOW TO PUT THESE INSTALLATIONS ON A FIRMER LONG-TERM FOOTING. WHILE WE DO NOT FORESEE PROBLEMS IN THE DAYS AHEAD WHICH MIGHT GIVE MARCOS' PAUSE IN CARRYING THROUGH ON HIS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO EXCHANGE NOTES ON THESE INSTALLATIONS, THAT POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE TOTALLY DISCOUNTED.

B) BREAKING THESE INSTALLATIONS FREE FROM THE BASE ISSUE AT THIS TIME WOULD ALLOW US TO HOLD THE
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FOCUS OF OUR ONGOING WORK TO THE PRIMARY BASE ISSUES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE TASK OF WORKING OUT THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE, MAPS AND DRAFT IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE EASIER AND LESS CLUTTERED IF THE NOTES ON THE VOA AND REGIONAL RELAY WERE SIGNED BEFOREHAND.

C) IN SPECIFIC REGARD TO VOA, THE AMBASSADOR MUST

SOON INFORM THE GOP OF VOA PLANS TO CONSTRUCT TWO
ADDITIONAL TRANSMITTERS AT TINANG (OUTSIDE THE CLARK
RESERVATION). AT THAT TIME HE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE
TO INDICATE THAT WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF CLARIFYING
THROUGH EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES THE STATUS OF THE
VOA FACILITIES AT THE MILITARY BASES.

2. SINCE ALL THESE INSTALLATIONS ARE PERIPHERAL TO THE
MAIN ISSUES CONCERNING THE BASES, WE CONTINUE TO SEE
CLEAR ADVANTAGES IN MOVING AHEAD WITH THE NOTES NOW.

NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA01328
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780038-0699
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780120/aaaaaqia.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 314209e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 1056, 78 STATE 17322
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3710692
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BASE DISCUSSIONS: VOA, REGIONAL RELAY, AMERICAN CEMETERY
TAGS: MARR, RP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/314209e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014